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REVIEWS

Angell, Norman. *The Great Illusion.* Pp. xvi, 388. Price, \$1.50. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1910.

The great problem of disarmament, looked at from the point of view of the economic futility of war, is the motive of this most delightfully written and well constructed book. The author is as logical as he is interesting, selecting with consummate skill his material so as to show that even the victorious nation will find it has grasped a phantom instead of economic advantages. In this day and generation, the invader cannot dispossess the landowner, but, no richer than before, will merely collect the taxes to carry on the government as heretofore. The nation covetous of colonies will find they cannot be used to the advantage of the holding state, but are and must remain in reality self-governing. Even an indemnity upon closer analysis proves to be a bane by raising prices at home and curtailing exports, at the very moment the prostrate nation feels the stimulus of a great trade revival. Our present misconceptions are shown to be due in part to our reliance upon the false analogy between the state and the individual. It is admitted that all advancement comes from the survival of the fittest, but the struggle is with the forces of nature and not man with man; for man must co-operate with man in the struggle against the forces of nature. The nation no longer represents the true alignment of world forces, for important interests such as finance and labor have become worldwide in their action.

All this and much besides which the book has to tell is worthy of consideration and will help every open-minded person to reach his conclusions upon this vital question. Let us hope that we may have an equally able presentation of the other side of the question. Not everyone will agree with certain of the statements made—as, for example, that the citizen of a small country receives the same consideration as one from a great empire. The mere fact of being a citizen of a great world power, like being well dressed, is one of the most powerful aids to success and consideration wherever one may go. Again, the great advantage which the world powers are struggling for is a part control in the direction of the different lines of industrial activity. They feel that such control brings opportunities for the employment to advantage of the resources of the nation, in brains, men, and capital.

At the same time that various interests are organizing without regard to national frontiers, the nations are slowly coalescing into groups and working out ever larger and larger systems of administration. Were these groups to be formed peaceably, and without dread of war, ultimately to be joined in one world administration, much inherent weakness would be cloaked, and an internecine strife, vastly more destructive than our own Civil War, would be the penalty; but building as they now do with the fear of war always present, every state knows that the efficiency of its system must be ready to stand the severest of tests—armed conflict. Perhaps, still, some wars may be necessary to demonstrate the rottenness of a system, like that

of Napoleon the Third's, which imposes upon the multitude. The administrative system capable of providing an adequate civil and military organization for a vast empire may serve to point the way to a world government.

In line with the characteristic sobriety which presides over his treatment of the subject, the author declares that "so long as current political philosophy in Europe remains what it is, I would not urge the reduction of our war budget by a single sovereign or a single dollar." In other words, being still under the dominion of false ideas which govern the minds of those about us, we must be prepared to defend ourselves from the action to which these fallacies may lead. Let us keep up a high degree of efficient armament; study this great question; and try to help others to reach a better understanding.

ELLERY CORY STOWELL.

The Cambridge Modern History. Vol. VI, *The Eighteenth Century.* Pp. xxxiii, 1019. Vol. XII, *The Latest Age.* Pp. xxxiv, 1033. Price, \$4.00 each. New York: Macmillan Company, 1909 and 1910.

With the appearance of the twelfth volume, the now well-known Cambridge Modern History is complete, so far as the narrative history is concerned. "The Latest Age," in the words of the prospectus, bringing "the history down to the last syllable of recorded time" to the point where history passes into action. Two supplementary volumes are still to appear; the first, an elaborate, historical atlas for the period; the second, composed of genealogical and other tables and the general index. But the historical writing for the work is before us, and it is appropriate in considering the last volumes to examine the work as a whole.

The plan to publish a comprehensive History of Modern Times in a series of volumes was decided upon by the Syndics of Cambridge University in 1896. At the time there was one man who by his position as regius professor of history at Cambridge University, by his broad culture and his careful training in the methods of the scientific historian was pre-eminently the man to direct the work. Lord Acton became the editor-in-chief, and at once threw himself into the task with much enthusiasm. Unfortunately he had time only to get his project well started when he died. But the plan had been sketched and it has been faithfully adhered to even though the unifying force of his master mind has been sadly missed.

This plan, it will be remembered, was to give to the world a co-operative history in which each important topic of a period would be treated by a foremost specialist, so that there would be a score or more of contributors for each volume. In this way it was hoped the work would be "history . . . as each of several parts is known to the man who knows it best." The period treated is the last four hundred years, an era, "which is marked off by an evident and intelligible line from the time immediately preceding, and displays in its course specific and distinctive characteristics of its own." We may or may not agree with the idea of an interruption to the law of historic progress in the fifteenth century, and we may believe that co-operative histories are